

MEETING MINUTES
KELLY AFB TECHNICAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (TRS)
TO THE RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

12 March 2002
SAMHD Health and Wellness Center

Attendees

Dr. Gene Lené, Community Co-Chair
Ms. Tanya Huerta, Community RAB Member
Ms. Katherine Ramos, Community RAB Alternate
Ms. Mary Martinez, Community Attendee
Mr. George Rice, Community RAB Member
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan, Community RAB Member
Mr. Ben Galvan, Community RAB Alternate
Mr. Larry Bowman, Community RAB Member
Mr. Robert Silvas, Community RAB Member
Mr. Doug Karas, Air Force Base Conversion Agency (AFBCA)
Mr. Don Buelter, AFBCA
Mr. Dan Zatopek, AFBCA
Mr. Mark Weegar, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)
Ms. Laura Stankosky, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Mr. Rick Rogus, CH2M Hill
Mr. Mark Stoker, CH2M Hill
Mr. Scott Lampright, Bexar County Fire Marshall – Environmental Management
Dr. Katherine Squibb, Johns Hopkins University
Mr. Sam Sanchez, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)
Ms. Kyle Cunningham, SAMHD
Mr. Curt Pearson, SAMHD
Ms. Lisa Sorg, San Antonio Current
Mr. Eddie Martinez, Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)
Mr. Tim Suelthanfuss, Booz Allen
Mr. Hugh Farr, Booz Allen
Ms. Patty Smith, Facilitator

I. Introduction

The meeting began at 6:33 P.M. Ms. Patty Smith introduced herself as the facilitator for the meeting and directed the meeting towards Dr. Gene Lené. Dr. Lené began the meeting by confirming that everyone had received the TRS meeting agenda. He stated that item four of the agenda would be addressed prior to item two. Dr. Lene suggested waiting until the next TRS meeting to approve the meeting minutes from the February meeting since some members had not brought the minutes that were given to them in the February RAB packages.

II. Charter Review Subcommittee Update

Mr. Doug Karas stated that the second RAB Charter Review Subcommittee meeting, thus far, had focused on the mission statement, and guiding principals. Mr. Karas added that he wanted to address the more difficult issues first, and address the easier ones after these had been resolved. He stated that he believed the charter review subcommittee would complete their work by mid-April.

III. TAPP Report

Dr. Katherine Squibb gave the TRS a presentation on the review of the Petitioned Public Health Assessment conducted by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. See Attachment

Discussion

Ms. Angel Martinez asked what constituted a volatile material and if cause and effect determination was difficult to prove. Dr. Squibb responded by saying that it depended on concentration. Mr. Robert Silvas stated that he was an employee at Kelly USA and he had witnessed fuel spills. Mr. Silvas added that he had witnessed his boss brining in bottled water and not drinking water from the taps in his place of work. Ms. Esmeralda Galvan stated that the study should be monitoring different sites because she has seen cases of rashes and other illnesses within the community.

Ms. Tanya Huerta asked why the risk-based standards were different. Mr. Mark Weegar responded by saying that states are allowed to set their own standards. He added that 3.14×10^{-6} is their cleanup goal statewide. Mr. Larry Bowman then asked what 10^{-6} meant. Mr. Weegar responded by saying that it meant that a person had a one in a million chance of getting cancer above and beyond an unexposed person. Mr. Weegar added that it is like one person in a million within the normal population. Ms. Huerta then asked if there was a fact sheet that gave the numbers so that the community could use as a reference. She stated that she thought the community would greatly benefit from having this information.

Ms. Galvan then asked if there existed studies on the dangers of all the chemicals in communities outside of San Antonio. Mr. Silvas then asked who had performed those studies. Ms. Martinez then asked how anyone could say all is well when lead and metal contamination is not safe. Dr. Squibb responded to all three questions by saying that the build up of metals and leads occurs in the soil and that constant monitoring and testing were key. Ms. Huerta asked what RBC meant. Ms. Laura Stankosky replied, saying that the US EPA uses the term and that it stands for Risk Based Criteria. She added that it is used to calculate health risks in contaminated areas.

Mr. Silvas asked where Benzene was mostly derived from. Dr. Lené replied that benzene is mostly derived from fuel. Mr. Sam Sanchez then asked if there was a pathway into people's homes and if there was how much would it be. Dr. Squibb said the chances are one in a million. Mr. Sanchez then stated that more testing needed to be done. Mr.

Sanchez also asked if it would make a good case if the pathway were complete. Dr. Squibb replied it would only work if there were crawlspaces. Ms. Huerta asked how that could be validated. Dr. Squibb responded by saying that that could only be done through current testing. Ms. Galvan then asked how long the testing model has been in use. Dr. Squibb replied that the model has been recently applied but that she did not know if it had been used in older neighborhoods. Mr. George Rice stated that the model assumes that all the homes studied have concrete slabs. Dr. Squibb replied that geology, and not housing style was the primary criteria. Mr. Rice then asked if the model was used nationally. Dr. Squibb responded by saying that the models have different variables. She added that as an example, concrete slabs actually enhance the pathway and that it can be a preferential pathway. She also stated that this was the case unless a crawlspace existed, which could dissipate the effect of contamination. She further stated that real-time testing helped determine that plumbing connections are the preferential pathways. Dr. Squibb also stated that the model is mostly used for radon testing. Mr. Silvas asked that since the modeling was performed off base, was any related on base. Dr. Squibb said no. Ms. Huerta asked if the study was small. Mr. Weegar said the study was performed based on RAB recommendations and that the model was used to evaluate areas with elevated soil gas, to confirm soil gas, and that there was no excess risk from soil gas. He added that it was slightly above 1 to the negative 10.

Ms. Sanchez asked if Dr. Squibb recommended indoor air monitoring. Dr. Squibb said yes. Mr. Weegar then stated that in terms of testing, other chemicals co-mingle with other chemical sources, such as chemicals used in dry cleaning. He added that perchloroethene (PCE) is primarily a cleaning fluid and that it can influence the outcome of the indoor air monitoring. Mr. Silvas stated there were not that many people on the south side who got their clothes dry cleaned. Ms. Huerta asked why there was so much testing for PCE. Mr. Weegar stated that high concentrations of PCE and the rate at which it volatilizes was the reason for so much testing. Mr. Don Buelter added that it was important to remember that PCE is less volatile than trichloroethene (TCE). Ms. Huerta then added that its higher concentration means that it takes longer to get up and out of the groundwater. Ms. Martinez asked if it takes years for a spill to migrate off base, why then does it only take minutes for it to blow into the neighborhood. Dr. Squibb said that referred to air pollution. Dr. Squibb also added that the only system of measurement was soil gas monitoring wells. Ms. Huerta then asked where other comments regarding modeling had come from. Dr. Squibb replied that the comments she had seen had come from other public health professionals. She added that the cancer slope factor had added risk from other chemicals present. Dr. Lené then asked if cases of asthma had been seen in terms of VOCs. Dr. Squibb responded by saying that asthma was very difficult in terms of determining direct causality. She added that allergies often exacerbate asthma and can contribute to the problem. Ms. Huerta asked if there were any reproductive issues associated with the study. Dr. Squibb said evidence suggests development effects exist at higher concentration levels and that more laboratory studies need to be performed. Ms. Huerta asked if the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) official data ignored birth defects or abnormalities in their studies. She also asked if 1997 was as far back as the study had gone. Dr. Squibb replied that cancer data has a 20-year lag factor. Birth defect data is more current, usually as recent as within the

last 6 months. She also said that cardiac abnormalities are related. Mr. Rice asked if certain chemicals could be traced to specific organ problems. He also asked if risk could be established based on disease. Dr. Squibb replied by stating that hazard indexes was the measuring tool used to determine risk. Mr. Rice also asked if this tool was being used throughout the country. Dr. Squibb said yes. Ms. Katherine Ramos then stated that the ATSDR should be granted a greater data-collecting mandate. Dr. Squibb said that the best route would be to speak to the appropriate elected officials. Mr. Weegar stated that the AFBCA was asked by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to do more soil sampling during the warmer times of the year. Ms. Huerta asked if increased rain might effect the sampling outcome. Mr. Weegar replied that an elevated water table could affect the data that is collected. He concluded saying that this might also dilute the concentration, but barring that, groundwater lessens the concentration amounts and also decreases the volatilization rate. Ms. Galvan then asked if the TRS, RAB or community were advised that soil sampling occurred. Mr. Buelter stated that testing was first requested of the AFBCA by the RAB. Ms. Laura Stankosky added that vinyl chloride, soil testing, as well as new sampling locations was where the greatest amount of give and take can occur. She concluded by saying that the most important thing is to do additional monitoring, do not rely on one result.

Ms. Huerta then asked why vinyl chloride was being tested. Mr. Weegar responded saying that the decision was made to test it because it is the worst of all of the contaminants. Ms. Huerta asked how increases in vinyl chloride are produced during the breakdown of other chemicals. Mr. Weegar stated that the contaminants that have thus far been detected are all that have been determined. He added that Zephyr's recommendation to the city has been to do continuous monitoring. Ms. Galvan then asked how long did long-term mean. Dr. Squibb replied two to three years. Ms. Galvan then asked if air monitoring at the highest plume areas was the best approach. Dr. Squibb said that is was. Ms. Huerta asked if there were any noncarcenogenic effects such as learning disabilities. Mr. Silvas then asked if certain groups were at a greater risk than others were. Dr. Squibb replied saying that young children and the elderly were at increased risk due to their changing immune systems. Mr. Silvas asked if exposure to contaminants was greater on or off base. Dr. Squibb replied that it was greater on base. Ms. Huerta asked what Dr. Squibb had meant by saying additive effects. Dr. Squibb said that some studies indicate that additive effects decreased on a mixture by mixture basis depending on exposure rates. Consistent hourly exposure is likely to increase contamination effects.

Ms. Martinez stated that the conclusion as far as she was concerned was that there is no real health risk based on the sampling that has been done thus far unless the testing occurs at people's homes. She added that the modeling that has been done cannot be taken factually because it is playing with data to serve the government's own ends. Dr. Squibb replied that it is important for people to do their own monitoring and data collecting, but that it was also important to be ready to ask oneself the hard questions concerning the data and what sorts of steps can be made to alleviate the situation. Dr. Lené stated that lead has been a problem. Mr. Rice stated that almost a year ago local area vegetables had been studied. He asked if the results from the study were available.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the results have come in this week but that his preference was to allow an outside scientist to view the data and make a judgement. Ms. Huerta asked if Mr. Sanchez was refusing to discuss the report publicly. Mr. Sanchez stated that he simply felt more comfortable having an independent expert, toxicologist or food scientist to review the study and comment on what the findings demonstrate. Ms. Kyle Cunningham stated that cactus had not been tested. Mr. Sanchez stated that another round of testing was planned because further interpretation of the data collected was needed. Mr. Curtis Pearson stated that the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) is expecting to have the next set of results at the next RAB. Mr. Silvas then asked how much validity there was to the hypothetical modeling used in the TAPP report. Dr. Squibb replied that it was all real. She later remarked to the importance of installing additional monitoring wells. Dr. Lené then reminded everyone that any questions to the TRS would be due by the 19th of March. Dr. Lené asked for any other questions or comments from the audience and called for a ten-minute break.

IV. Semi Annual Compliance Plan

See Attachment

Mr. Buelter introduced Mr. Rick Rogus. Mr. Rogus delivered the Semi Annual Compliance Plan report. Mr. Silvas asked how long the sampling had been done. Mr. Rogus said since 1994. Mr. Sam Murrah asked where the sampling had been performed. Mr. Rogus stated that some had been done out by the San Antonio River. Ms. Martinez asked what the purpose of the two new monitoring wells was. Mr. Rogus responded saying that he did not know why they were there. Mr. Murrah then stated that he must have been referring to sampling wells. Mr. Silvas asked of all the zones, which had seen the highest level of contamination. Mr. Rogus said Zone 3. Mr. Sanchez asked if the San Antonio River had been sampled. Mr. Rogus said yes, sampling had gone on in July. Mr. Bowman then asked why sampling did not occur in July and August. Mr. Rogus stated that the July report covered January through June but excluded the annual sampling. He added that September was solely reserved for water sampling. Mr. Weegar then added that the reason for the selected months for sampling were mandated by the state. Mr. Bowman then asked if anyone was performing water testing during July. Mr. Weegar replied, saying that work is being done at all times on the site and that some sites might still be in an investigation stage. Ms. Huerta asked if private individuals were doing their own testing. Mr. Weegar then stated that the Semi Annual Compliance Plan under AFBCA mandated testing by the TNRCC. Mr. Rice then asked what length of time had the testing been performed. Mr. Rogus said it had been done over a four-week period. Mr. Bowman asked who was taking the samples. Mr. Rogus replied saying that contracted hydrogeologists had done the work. Mr. Murrah asked if the location of sampling was helpful in determining what sorts of contaminants were coming off from Kelly. Mr. Rogus said yes and that there was a monitoring station above the highway that had been established to determine what was coming from Kelly. Ms. Huerta asked what fish were being sampled for. Mr. Rogus stated that it was mostly for pesticides and mercury. Mr. Murrah asked if there was a control group north of the base that was helping to determine if there were any differences in the fish sampling results. Mr.

Rogus replied by saying that the movement of fish makes it difficult to be certain where contamination came from. Mr. Rogus added that testing was also being conducted in Salado Creek. Ms. Ramos asked if any invertebrate sampling was being performed. Mr. Rogus said yes and that all individual creatures get tested. Ms. Huerta asked how anyone would know based on looking at the maps. Mr. Rogus responded saying that the two maps show the regulatory limits on contamination. Mr. Rogus added saying that the maps also show well concentration. Ms. Galvan asked how the remediation was being done. Mr. Rogus said that pump and treat was being done off base. He added that it was helping to keep the plume from going off base, but that it was not treating contaminants that had already migrated off base. Mr. Scott Lampright asked what results were determined from metals. Mr. Rogus said that metals are found constantly in certain spots. Ms. Huerta asked if he could identify the stations where the metals were being found. Mr. Rogus said that he was not certain which station the results had come from. Mr. Rice asked if the results were three out of five stations. Mr. Rogus replied by saying that yes, three out of the five stations had detected contaminants and that the report was far more detailed. He added that the presence of metals in fish is not uncommon. Mr. Silvas asked if a spill at a storm drain occurred, would monitoring detect it. Mr. Rogus said yes. He added that if a spill happens it will be detected. He concluded saying that the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) does perform sampling. Mr. Bowman asked what the purpose of the presentation was. Mr. Rogus stated that his goal was to provide a brief overview of the activities at Leon creek. Mr. Weegar added that one of the main focuses of the testing was for groundwater volatiles. Ms. Galvan asked if any pesticides had been found. Mr. Rogus answered saying that despite the fact that they had been banned, they can still be found. Ms. Huerta stated that at the February RAB meeting, the RAB members learned that the fish at Brackenridge Park were more contaminated than those in Leon Creek. Mr. Silvas asked if more testing could be done than what currently has taken place. Mr. Rogus said yes, but asked for a clarification. Mr. Weegar said that if an impact occurs, the TNRCC requests the AFBCA to propose a remedial action to control the matter. The next step he said is for the AFBCA to evaluate the data followed by bringing that information to the TNRCC for their input. He said AFBCA and TNRCC are mandated to respond upon determining that an impact has occurred. Mr. Buelter added to the exchange saying that the AFBCA started testing at Leon Creek. Ms. Huerta asked if testers enter the water. Mr. Rogus said yes and that they wear waders.

V. Administrative

Mr. Buelter stated that the BCT report would not be available until March 18, 2002. Mr. Doug Karas said that the AFBCA knows that Boeing had had a spill, but that no official report from them has been issued. Mr. Silvas said he could confirm that a spill took place and that he heard it was in the amount of 200 or more gallons and that there was no way to contain it. He added that he understood that the fuel had gotten into the storm drain and that another spill from the KC 135 aircraft might have been larger. Mr. Rice asked if the issue of a fuel spill by Boeing had been underreported. Mr. Weegar stated that the issue was hearsay until an official investigation occurred. Mr. Silvas said that the plane itself has a computer that monitors its fuel levels. He added that those responsible for securing the aircraft know this and that they knew about the spill. Mr. Weegar said that if anything wrong had occurred at the Boeing Corporation, the information needed to be

reported in order for an investigation to begin. Mr. Silvas said that he came forward and that the TNRCC regional office offered no assistance. Mr. Rice stated that he believed the proper response would be to perform an interview. Mr. Weegar then said that TNRCC regulations require voluntary compliance. He added that facilities have annual inspections. Mr. Rice said that Mr. Weegar's answer indicated a lack of concern on the part of the TNRCC. Mr. Weegar expressed his disagreement with Mr. Rice's position and repeated the fact that TNRCC regulations were based upon voluntary compliance. He added saying that most people want to do the right thing. He said that unless someone is willing to provide documentation, TNRCC is not permitted to take action. Ms Huerta asked if a spill is taking place, can one remain around it and not be effected. Mr. Weegar stated that the regional office came and performed a test and they indicated that they smelled fuel. He added that during the last legislative session, the regulations changed as far as how an investigation can proceed. He also said that regional offices have limited resources and that it is not possible for field agents to police every reported violation. He concluded saying that if someone knows about a spill that has occurred, it is important to get that information to the proper authorities so an investigation can begin.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Laura Stankosky of EPA said that this would be her last. She said she had enjoyed working with the group and wished everyone well.

Mr. Eddie Martinez reminded everyone that the February RAB minutes had been placed within the packets of their folders and for them to please bring those with them to the April RAB meeting

Action items: AFBCA to provide the ATSDR website or fact sheet for risk analysis data to the RAB members.

William Ryan is coordinating with the city to present City Council's recommendations on Zone 4 CMS.

The next meeting was proposed for May 14, 2002

Mr. Rice asked when Mr. Sanchez would have the fruit and nut sampling report ready. Mr. Sanchez replied saying he envisioned bringing it to the next RAB meeting. Mr. Sanchez added that he needed at least a 30-day turnaround time on the report to confirm the report's findings.

Meeting adjourned 9:02 PM.